

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /134 W

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R 161746Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5533

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SGEN, EEC

SUBJECT: WCL LEADER ENCOURAGED BY NEGOTIATIONS WITH ETUC

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY. JEAN KULAKOWSKI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE

EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (EO/WCL) SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) FOR ULTIMATE AFFILIATION OF EO-WCL ORGANIZATIONS TO THE ETUC. END SUMMARY.

2. KULAKOWSKI TOLD THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE THAT A TEAM OF LEADERS FROM BOTH ORGANIZATIONS MET IN BRUSSELS JULY 12. THEY INCLUDED, FOR THE ETUC: BERGERON (FRANCE), DEBUNNE (BELGIUM), DEBOON (HOLLAND), NEILSEN (DENMARK), MULLER (GERMANY), AND THEO RASSCHAERT, GENERAL SECRETARY; FOR THE EO-WCL: JEFF HOUTHUYS (BELGIUM), SALANNE (FRANCE), VAN HOUT (HOLLAND), GRAF (SWITZERLAND) AND KULAKOWSKI, GENERAL SECRETARY. HE SAID THAT NO "DEFINITE DECISIONS" WERE REACHED BUT THAT HE AND RASSCHAERT WILL DRAW UP A JOINT REPORT OF THE MEETING FOR SUBMISSION TO THEIR RESPECTIVE EXECUTIVE BODIES AND THAT ANOTHER MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING TEAMS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN OCTOBER.

3. KULAKOWSKI SAID HIS GROUP MADE IT CLEAR THE EO-WCL WAS PREPARED TO ABANDON ITS EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION AFTER THE MODALITIES FOR THE AFFILIATION OF ITS MEMBERS ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT "NOBODY IS ASKING OUR MEMBERS TO RENOUNCE AFFILIATION WITH THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR AT THE WORLD LEVEL". HE ALSO SAID THAT THE NEGOTIATORS HAD MERELY "TOUCHED ON" THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER JEAN BRUCK, WCL GENERAL SECRETARY, SHOULD SHARE WITH ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN, THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN ETUC MEETINGS. (THEO RASSCHAERT TOLD US HE BELIEVES WCL WILL "GIVE WAY" ON THIS DEMAND IN THE FACE OF ETUC OPPOSITION.)

4. KULAKOWSKI STATED THAT THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS WILL WORK OUT A LIST OF EO-WCL AFFILIATES "ELIGIBLE" TO JOIN THE ETUC. HE ADDS THAT THE EO-WCL WILL NOT INSIST ON "FORMAL TIES" TO THE ETUC FOR ITS GERMAN OR ITALIAN AFFILIATE BUT WILL SEEK INSTEAD SOME SORT OF "INFORMAL" LINK FOR THEM.

5. KULAKOWSKI SAID THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC POSITIONS IN THE ETUC FOR HIMSELF AND JEFF HOUTHUYS, CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF THE EO-WCL. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES A SATISFACTORY "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" CAN BE WORKED OUT. "I DON'T SEE THIS AS A PROBLEM" HE SAID. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT IF A "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS REACHED ON THIS POINT, THE NECESSARY CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE IT WILL BE WORKED OUT AFTER THE CHRISTIAN UNIONS BECOME AFFILIATES OF ETUC.

6. COMMENT: KULAKOWSKI APPEARED VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE MEETING, AN ASSESSMENT GENERALLY SUPPORTED BY THEO RASSCHAERT, DURING A LATER CONVERSATION WITH THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE. RASSCHAERT, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID "THERE ARE NO REAL PROBLEMS"

(IN THE NEGOTIATIONS). IF THIS ASSESSMENT IS CORRECT, IT MAY BE THE RESULT OF THE FACT THAT EO-WCL NEGOTIATORS, AS "DEMANDERS", ARE DEVELOPING A MORE FLEXIBLE, SOFTER NEGOTIATING POSITION. THIS SHOULD ENHANCE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AGREEMENT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, OR EARLY NEXT YEAR. BUT AS KULAKOWSKI STRESSED, NO "DECISIONS" HAVE YET BEEN TAKEN AND NEGOTIATIONS COULD HARDEN AGAIN. GREENWALD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEMBERSHIP, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973ECBRU03997  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** EC BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730732/aaaaaxib.tel  
**Line Count:** 122  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WCL LEADER ENCOURAGED BY NEGOTIATIONS WITH ETUC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**TAGS:** ELAB, SGEM, WCL, ETUC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005